

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 OMB-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01

AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W

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R 191246Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6726

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 3862

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TU

SUBJECT: MILITANT YOUTH ACTIVITIES

REFS: (A) ISTANBUL 3963; (B) ANKARA 8407

SUMMARY: AMID CONTINUING ATMOSPHERE OF STUDENT MALAISE
ACTIVISTS FROM LEFT AND RIGHT HAVE STAGED INCIDENTS AT ISTANBUL'S
UNIVERSITIES AND YALOVA. ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE PRE-
VENTED ESCALATION, BUT POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE CONTINUES. END
SUMMARY

1. POLITICAL ACTIVISTS FROM RIGHT AND LEFT, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE
ATMOSPHERE OF RESLESSNESS AND DISSATISFACTION PREVALENT AMONG
STUDENTS, HAVE CAUSED DISRUPTIVE INCIDENTS IN ISTANBUL AND THE
MARMARA TOWN OF YALOVA. ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (ITU)
WHICH REOPENED NOV 17 AFTER NEARLY TWO WEEKS OF RECESS CALLED
FOLLOWING DEATH OF RIGHTIST STUDENT (REF A) WAS SCENT OF LEFT-
RIGHT CONFRONTATION WHEN ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE IDEALIST HEARTHS
ORGANIZATION'S STAGED A "FORUM" IN MEMORY OF DEAD STUDENT.
"PROGRESSIVE" STUDENT WHO ALLEGED RIGHTISTS HAD SEIZED BUILDING,
REACTED BY OCCUPYING SEPARATE BUILDING. RIOT POLICE

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INTERVENTION HOWEVER, PREVENTED SERIOUS VIOLENCE. LEFTISITS CALLED

ONE DAY PROTEST BOYCOTT OF CLASSES NOT 18. ITU, HOWEVER, REMAINS OPEN WITH ARMORED VEHICLE STATIONED AT UNIVERSITY GATES. (THERE WAS ALSO A BRIEF DEMONSTRATION AT ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY NOV 17.) BUT

ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, POLICE QUICKLY DISPERSED PARTICIPANTS.

2. A GROUP OF LEFTIST STUDENTS COMMEMORATING THE "MARTYRDOM" OF KERIM YAMAPX, A VICTIM OF A CLASH IN JAN. 1975, HELD AN "ANTI-FASCISM" MEETING AT THE VATAN HIGH SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING NOV. 18. THE GROUP MARCHED TO CENTER OF OLD CITY AND OVERTURNED TRUCK

BELONGING TO SANCAK TULLE FACTORY, OWNED BY JUSTICE PARTY DEPUTY MURAT BAYRAK. (BAYRAK, WHO IS CLOSELY LINKED WITH NATIONAL ACTION PARTY LEADER TURKES, ALLEGEDLY FINANCES TRAINING OF RIGHT-WING COMMANDOS.)

3. THE "NEITHER AMERICA NOR RUSSIA" YOUTH MARCH (REF B) SCHEDULE TO PASS OVERLAND FROM YALOVA TO ISTANBUL WAS HAULTED BY JANDARMA AT YALOVA-KOCAELI (IZMIT BORDER). MARCH, WHICH BEGAN WITH APPROXIMATELY SIX HUNDRED PARTICIPANTS, HAD DWINDLED TO ABOUT 50 WHEN IT WAS BROKEN UP. KOCAELI GOVERNOR DENIED PERMISSION FOR MARCHERS TO PASS THROUGH HIS PROVINCE. BY LATE AFTERNOON NOV. 18, ALL MARCHERS HAD LEFT THE KARAMURSEL BASE AREA. ACCORDING TO PRESS NOV. 19 MARCHERS INTEND TRAVEL TO ISTANBUL BY FERRY AND HOLD "MEETING" ON NOV 23.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE WAS APPARENTLY NO MAJOR VIOLENCE DURING THESE INCIDENTS, THE DEMONSTRATING GROUPS SUCCEEDED IN DISRUPTING UNIVERSITY CLASSES, OCCUPYING LARGE NUMBER OF POLICE AND ADDING TO THE GENERAL AURA OF DISCONTENT AMONG THE YOUTH OF THE CITY. WHILE THESE INCIDENTS ARE NOT REMARKABLE IN THEMSELVES, COLLECTIVELY THEY ARE A SOURCE OF CONCERN SINCE IT IS APPARENT THAT ACTIVISTS OF BOTH SIDES ARE IGNORING PLEAS AND WARNING FROM PRES. KORUTURK AND MILITARY CHIEF OF STAFF SANCAR NOT TO RESORT TO DISRUPTIVE ACTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: YOUTH GROUPS, POLITICAL SITUATION, UNIVERSITIES, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISTANB03862
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750403-0142
From: ISTANBUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751129/aaaaazqc.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ISTANBUL 3963, 75 ANKARA 8407
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITANT YOUTH ACTIVITIES
TAGS: PINT, PINS, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006